

being the Mau-Mo Tom. The same festival will be celebrated to-morrow night. We are informed that there are no less than 50,000 visitors from the villages of the colony, and from the mainland now assembled in the city. The crowds in the streets are happy to say, have up to the present, at least, been particularly orderly and well-behaved.

The N. O. D. News has received intelligence from the North to the effect that an alliance has been concluded between Great Britain, China, and Japan for the protection of Korea against Russia.

Still one more report about an alliance having been concluded between England, China, and Japan, comes from the North—the object, of course, being the protection of Korea against Russia. Shall we look now for another contradiction to this statement from London, and a confirmation of Sir Robert Hart's resignation as British Minister? Or shall we have merely to record the withdrawal of Sir Robert's unfortunate resignation, and the truth of the triple alliance?—In connection with Korean affairs, our Tientsin Correspondent mentions that Judge Denny was expected to succeed Herr von Mollendorff as Foreign Adviser to the Korean Government. If this be correct, Herr Mollendorff's eclipse seems likely to last for some considerable period. Until, however, further light be thrown upon the reported resignation of Sir Robert Hart (who was British Minister to Korea as well as to China), it will be of no use to hazard any opinion.

General Count Kuroda has recently returned to Shanghai from a trip up the Yangtze as far as Ichang. His Excellency was accompanied by a numerous suite, many of whom were actively engaged in surveying the country, making maps, taking notes, and gathering a variety of information.

A bird has been discovered in South America which is born with four feet. Only one pair of feet, however, remain with it for any length of time, the other pair gradually changing into wings. The London Graphic vouches for the reality of the bird, which it says is found on the island of Marajo, at the mouth of the Amazon.

In H. B. M.'s Civil Summary Court at Shanghai on the 29th ultimo, Messrs. Seison and Co. sued Jno. Geo. Thirkell, of the Celestial Empire office, to recover the sum of \$30 on an order endorsed by him for payment on account of Mr. Seison. His Honour decided that the endorsement made the defendant responsible for the amount, and defendant said he would pay without the facts of the case being gone into, but he wished plaintiffs to understand that no other orders of a similar kind would be endorsed by him.

The N. O. D. News translates the following from the Peking Gazette:—The Governor-General and Governor at Foonchow report the despatch by bill of exchange of the second instalment of certain subsidies for the capital which are a charge upon the revenues of Fuhkien. The Board of Revenue have charged the tea duties of Fuhkien for the present year with a contribution of Tls. 50,000 for the office of the Imperial Household. Tls. 200,000 for the Board of Revenue, and Tls. 50,000 for the maintenance of the Banner force, while the Tls. 50,000 on foreign opium are charged Tls. 50,000.

The Shanghai Courier of the 29th ultimo contains the following reference to the collision between the *Wuchang* and *Hsiao*:—The *Wuchang* arrived this afternoon from the Peking. It appears that at the time of the collision she was moored to the bank taking in cargo, when the *Hsiao* came down river and ran into her port quarter, making a hole some five feet deep, but fortunately raised, damaging her steering gear. The force of the collision carried away all the wire ropes by which the *Wuchang* was moored to the bank. The two ships were locked together for more than 24 hours before they could be separated. The hole made in the *Wuchang* is peculiar in shape, not being more than an inch wide in its upper part, but she is fearfully torn away lower down. This is accounted for by the plates on the upper part of the bows of the *Hsiao* giving way to the hard steel and heavy cross-beam of the *Wuchang*'s stern, but the stem of the *Hsiao* curled the steel plates up, so that they had been forced down. The *Hsiao* went into dock at Taku, and the *Wuchang* will go into Boyd's dock, we believe, as soon as possible.

The two Japanese steamship companies have been on the point of amalgamation for some time back. In the competition the Mitsui Bishi is said to have lost over two hundred thousand dollars. The Japan Gazette translates the following from the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* regarding the final agreement:—

The extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Kyodo Unyu Kaisha was held on Saturday, the 15th instant, according to notice, Mr. Morioka, president of the company, in the chair. The question submitted to the meeting was whether the Kyodo should continue to be carried on as a separate company, or be dissolved and incorporated with a proposed new shipping company (in effect amalgamated with the Mitsui Bishi Company) in accordance with suggestions privately made to the effect by his Excellency the minister of agriculture and commerce. After considerable discussion a motion or amendment was put that the value of the property of the Mitsui Bishi Company should be given another assessment, the report should be discussed, and it was resolved that every available expedient should be adopted to relieve the Kyodo from the necessity of amalgamation with the Mitsui Bishi Company. None of the amendments found favour, and eventually the original motion that the Kyodo Unyu Kaisha should be dissolved, and its property be incorporated with the proposed new company, was carried by 3,380 votes for and 1,270 against. The meeting further decided that the resolution should be made known to the authorities.

The Shanghai Courier of the 29th ultimo says:—

Mr. Patrick J. Hughes, H. B. M.'s Consul-General, goes home to-morrow via America on a well-earned leave of absence, with Mrs. Hughes, and it is needless to say that they will be very much missed. Mr. Hughes' long experience of China, excellent judgment, unflinching courtesy, and amiability of temper make him a very good representative of the British Government at Shanghai. We have not always agreed with everything he has done as Consul-General, and we have sometimes thought that he might have displayed a little more energy and self-assertion; but there is much to be said for his view that it is better to try and lead than drive the Chinese, and we commend the attitude he assumed and maintained in the Hongkong tobacco matter and the recent trouble at the Mixed Court. The whole community will join with us in wishing to him and his wife a favourable voyage and a happy sojourn at home; and we shall be more pleased than surprised if they return to the Consulate here as Sir Patrick and Lady Hughes.

The Straits Times of the 26th ultimo says:—

One of the boldest attempts at robbery we have heard of for some time was made last night at the godown of Mr. S. S. Cohen, a Jew, carrying on the business of selling rice, grain, &c., in Raffles Place. Last night before leaving his office Mr. Cohen secured himself that all was safely locked and bolted up, and what was his surprise this morning on coming there at about 8.30 a.m. to find one of the shutters (which close over the iron bars in the window) open, which he knew could only be effected from the inside. He pulled the shutter open and then having plucked up courage unlocked the door and walked in and sat down at his desk. He found that about \$102 in copper had disappeared from his desk. As he was sitting there he was startled by seeing a Chinese coolie walking down between the racks towards the door. He made a feeble excuse for having come in, but Mr. Cohen followed him up, laid hold of him and handed him over to the police. A regular hunt was instituted for the money and most of it was found hidden in such a corner of the godown. The coolie must have passed the night in the godown and no doubt his intention was if he got out safely, to return in the course of the day and purchase the sacks, he being wise that Joseph's brethren and knowing well what they contained.

Notes from Korea.

Our advices from Korea throw a little more light upon the action of Herr von Mollendorff and its consequences, but do not tend to change the opinions we have already expressed upon the alleged attempted arrangement with Russia. The truth seems to be that Mr. Mollendorff, seeing that Korea was theoretically independent and had made treaties with other nations as an independent State, was desirous of making Korea's independence an accomplished fact, and of getting her neutrality guaranteed by the various Treaty Powers on a similar basis to that of Belgium. This seemed to him necessary to play off the pretensions of one power against those of another. When it became known that all Chinese and Japanese troops would be withdrawn, it became necessary to put the Korean army on an organized footing, and to adopt Western military methods; but from what country were the drill instructors to come? America is not a military power, there had been much talk of undue favouritism towards Germany, so that Great Britain and Russia alone remained. Owing to the Port Hamilton incident, Great Britain had apparently raised obstacles. Instead of arranging the occupation of Port Hamilton with Korea as an independent friendly power with whom Britain had a treaty, the occupation was arranged with Peking evidently upon the lines of the old dependency of China. When the occupation became known, Korea formally protested to Great Britain and the other Treaty Powers against the military occupation of an integral portion of the Korean Kingdom. This protest the Korean Foreign Office afterwards tried to withdraw upon the pretext of altering the wording of the despatch, instigated perhaps by the British Representatives and the Chinese high authorities. The representatives of Germany, Japan, and Russia were not in accord with those of England and China in this matter, and as the presence of Herr Mollendorff did not seem to meet with the approval of the Chinese and English diplomatic agents, things did not go smoothly. It was last year, when the progressive Koreans were assassinated by the cabal known as the Japanese Conspiracy, and the King judged that the Foreign Legations were favouring Japanese pretensions, that the Korean King sent a secret mission to Vladivostok asking for Russian protection. This was doubtless owing partly to the fact that China was then fully coupled with France, and partly because the Foreign Representatives had given no warning of the same. When subsequently the question of Drill Instructors cropped up, the Americans tried hard to get engagements for some of their men; but here Herr Mollendorff stepped in with a suggestion that, as a set-off against Britain's action at Port Hamilton and as a sop to the Russian bear (who is a new and dangerous enemy whom it is well to keep in good humour), Russian drill instructors should be appointed. This is probably the whole story of Mr. Mollendorff's intrigues in regard to Russia, and it is probably defensible as a sound political move. No more than this was ever done for the De Speyer Treaty so much talked of. When De Speyer arrived, the British and American Representatives made common cause against him, and he had trouble in obtaining an interview with the King; he had brought no credentials, and the Korean Government

would have no Russian drill instructors. China talked very strongly against Russia, and altogether things looked very gloomy, and Speyer left in a frame of mind which boded no good to Korea. It appears that the English and American Representatives advised the Korean King to relieve Mollendorff of all political responsibility by dismissing him from the Foreign Office, in the somewhat sanguine hope that this step would satisfy the late Russian, and that no more would be heard of Russian demands. This will probably prove to be a delusive hope before long. However, after much palaver, it was decided to appease China by dismissing Mollendorff, and making him the scapegoat for the Russian demands. The King has also sent into exile the members of the secret mission whom he sent on his own responsibility to Vladivostok. So for the time Mr. Mollendorff is under a cloud, and at present can do little or nothing for Korean independence. It is believed by many that, were he not supported by Foreign Powers, he would do much good for Korea. He had set about in a right way the work of making Korea something more than a political expression, and he is said to have got a grip of the subjects involved in Korean progress which no one else has gained. Now, however, every one is fighting for his own hand, and the welfare of Korea is nearly lost sight of in the scramble. Drill instructors, mercantile contracts, mining concessions, the supply of guns and ammunition, &c., &c.: these things appear and re-appear in the general turmoil. And the chances are that the temporary eclipse of Mollendorff will increase this interesting struggle.

The Chinese are constructing an overland telegraph line to China from Seoul, evidently with a view to contingencies; and as they have also formed a large military camp at Yen-tai, on the Shantung Promontory, the nearest point to Korea, it is clear that Chinese interests in Korea are to be maintained. So far as industrial schemes are concerned—the new Mint and the Customs, for instance—Mr. Mollendorff's position remains unchanged. He has only been relieved from his duties in the Foreign Office. The German-Korean ex-Premier is still a Korean noble and a Korean official of the second rank; but he is at present under a cloud which coming events may any day dispel, when his power will probably be greater than ever.

Tientsin.

SIR ROBERT HART AND THE FOREIGN CUSTOMS. Tientsin, Aug. 24. It is said Sir Robert Hart, who has received his Commission from the Foreign Office, will take his post at H. M. Legation on Friday next, 29th inst. His successors are not named, but, probably, a settlement will be made to-day by the Yamen. For the Chinese post there are six or seven candidates: for the foreign Co-Inspector Generalship, Mr. James Hart, by last accounts, would seem likely to be the favoured candidate. Dr. Martin's name is no longer mentioned. It is to the interest of all concerned in trade with China that the Customs service should be maintained at its present high standard of excellence. One laxity is introduced; corruption will follow, and with corruption great abuses and ultimate loss of revenue. The service has also, as now constituted, an important political position; therefore it is to the common interest that the foreigners in high office should be men of standing as well as of ability to manage the various details and difficult affairs that continually come up for settlement.

REORGANISATION OF THE CHINESE ARMY AND NAVY. The Viceroy Li goes to Peking in three weeks. While there he will sit as one of a special council to consider the first steps to be taken for the reorganization of the armies and navies of China, about which many memorials have been invited from various high personages of the State. According to report it is intended to form a standing army, with uniforms, arms, accoutrements, discipline, &c., of 500,000 to 700,000 men, to be increased in war time to double the number. The navy will be made into a good service. Four large ironclads were ordered last week; to be built in England under the superintendence of the Construction Department of H. M. Navy, and two to be built in Germany under the superintendence of the German Admiralty.

The Viceroy Li has made a large contract for rifles and cartridges; his troops are now armed throughout with Mausers, and there are ample reserves in store. HERR MOLLENDORFF TO BE SUCCEDED BY JUDGE DENNY. Herr von Mollendorff will be replaced in Seoul, as adviser to the Korean Government, probably by Judge Denny, formerly Consul General of the United States at Shanghai. Judge Denny is a man of the highest personal reputation; he is also practical, sagacious and prudent; so that he will be a good counsellor. His pay will be \$1000 a month, which is not too much for such a man. Some details are not yet arranged, but there is reason to believe he will accept the post offered to him. Here von Mollendorff is a lost or wasted force. He is a man of great ability, bold, quick, and full of resource, but unstable. Probably he will give plausible reasons for the action he took against China and Japan in favour of Russia last January. I am sorry he made such a grievous error. People in Japan make unfounded and foolish

imputations against Herr von Mollendorff, and allege reasons for his action. But all who know him are sure he is not a man to be misled, or bought. Mistakes he may make, but his personal honour is beyond all questioning.

PANURG. SUPREME COURT. IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

(Before His Honour E. J. Leach, Judge, Judge.) Thursday, Sept. 3.

MYERS AND ANOTHER v. L. O. WATSON AND DEACON.—\$800.13. Mr. Wilson, from the office of Messrs Watson and Deacon, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Caldwell appeared for the defendant. The cross-examination of Mr. Myers by Mr. Wilson was resumed this afternoon. He said he wrote to Mr. Schroeter on the 18th March, warning him not to deliver the guns to any one without his orders. Mr. Wilson said that Mr. Schroeter swore he had received no letter from Mr. Myers on that date, and that Mr. Myers acknowledged receipt of the letter. Mr. Wilson said Mr. Schroeter admitted receiving a note on the 18th from Mr. Myers, but not one from Mr. Schroeter. He said he wrote to Mr. Schroeter on the 18th March, warning him not to deliver the guns to any one without his orders. Mr. Wilson said that Mr. Schroeter swore he had received no letter from Mr. Myers on that date, and that Mr. Myers acknowledged receipt of the letter.

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in the case of Walden A. Grig, to use its discretion by allowing this order to stand. There was no evidence of the fact, but perhaps the Lordships would take it from him, that this was really a question of money, and it would be a great relief to him, and it would be compelled to commence de novo, and have the deed set aside. It would put her to great expense.

The Chief Justice—What your demand amounts to is really this, that you request the administrator to be set aside, and if that deed is good, it is a complete answer to the summons. In that case the plaintiff would have no interest whatever. If that deed is good, she has given all her right to Mr. Silva.

Mr. Leach—But surely she would be entitled to have her account. The Chief Justice—Not at all, she has given up all her interest.

Mr. Leach—That is the allegation. The Chief Justice—Therefore, if the summons went on, it seems to me that it is not quite clear that the executor can set aside the deed, or administrator. So far as I can gather from your own case, your client goes to the office of Mr. Silva's solicitor. There, in the presence of Mr. Evans, she sells the whole of her interest in the estate. The executor treated this as a valid arrangement, and then goes to Mr. Silva and hands over the property to him. It seems to me she can hardly complain of the conduct of the Executor.

Mr. Leach—I submit, with all respect, that the plaintiff has a right to an account without complaining of the Executor.

The Chief Justice—No; if she gives up her right, she has no right to an account. Mr. Leach—Under the circumstances I have no further observations to make.

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STREET GAMBLING. Wong Pun Kin and Ng Cheung were fined \$1 each, or three days' hard labour, for playing roulette, for gambling at a table on the Recreation Ground this morning.

APPEAL CASE FROM JAPAN. Sir Richard Temple Rennie, Chief Justice of H. B. M.'s Supreme Court, had before him on the 29th ultimo an appeal case from Japan, arising out of the collision between the steamer *Glamorganshire* and the American sailing vessel *Clarissa B. Carr*. The suit was originally instituted by the owners of the *Glamorganshire*, and the steamer was arrested but was released upon the owners giving security for \$100,000. The owners of the *Glamorganshire* applied to the Court in Japan for leave to file a counter claim against the *Clarissa B. Carr* and for her to give security to abide by the decision of the Court upon the counter claim, and the Judge, Mr. H. S. Wilkinson, Esq., who presided at the decision of the Court before the appeal was made, refused to make an order for security to be given, and it was against this latter part of the order that the owners of the *Glamorganshire* applied to the Supreme Court here. Their case is in the hands of H. S. 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